



Mental Health Transformation Grant

Wellness and Recovery for Thousands through Employment and Education (WRKE) State of Colorado

Local Service Area: Denver, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Gilpin, and Jefferson counties, CO

Primary Service Focus: Jobs and Economy

Project Director: John Hamilton

Project Team Members: Roy Starks, Ruth Arnold, Paul Barnett, Deborah Ward-White, Pallavi Visvanathan

CMHS Project Officer: Risa Fox

Evidence-Based Practice(s): Individual Placement and Support, Supported Education

Project Description: *Wellness and Recovery for Thousands through Employment and Education (WRKE)* proposes to transform Colorado's community mental health system by expanding and enhancing evidence-based supported employment and education services for individuals with serious mental illnesses (SMI). The project focuses on both young adults age 18-25 with SMI who are transitioning to programs serving adults and adults over 25 with SMI who would benefit from supportive employment or education. Four strategies underlie *WRKE*'s transformative nature. First, transformation will occur through expansion of evidence-based supported employment and education services in Denver and initiation of such services in six contiguous Colorado counties. Second, in collaboration with young adult consumer advisors, project staff will adapt the models to meet the needs of the 18-25 age group. Third, the service delivery partners will use the Mental Health Center of Denver's nationally-recognized Recovery Markers system to measure and evaluate the project's consumer recovery outcomes. Finally, *WRKE* will disseminate and promote evidence-based models to other Colorado locations using existing statewide infrastructure, including workforce development centers, vocational rehabilitation offices, and community mental health centers, with a special focus on rural and frontier areas. *WRKE* anticipates serving 314 clients by the end of the grant period.